

## STORY 72.

THE EXHORTATIONS OF A FUZAIL TO  
HARUN-AL-RASHID.

ONCE Harun-al-Rashid accompanied by his Vizier went to see Fuzail a well-known saint of his day and knocked at his door.

*Fuzail* "Who is it?"

*Vizier* "The commander of the faithful has come to see you."

*Fuzail* "What has he got to do with me? Please tell him to go away and not to disturb me."

But in spite of his protests they went in and Harun said to the holy man, "Please favour me with a piece of advice."

*Fuzail* "Listen, when (Hazrat) Omar took the reins of the Khilafat he felt that he was weighed down by many heavy responsibilities."

The Caliph was moved by this and said, "Please say something more."

*Fuzail* "Fear God, and always remain prepared to answer for your deeds. On the day of judgement you shall be called to account for all your subjects so much so that if an old helpless woman has slept hungry she will sue you before the throne of the Almighty."

On hearing this Harun began to tremble and

he wept until his beard was wet. Upon this the Vizier said, "Fuzail please stop now, you have nigh killed the Caliph."

*Fuzail* "Not I but you and the likes of you have brought him to the brink of ruin."

*Harun* "If you owe any debts please let me know that I may order them to be paid."

*Fuzail* "I have not been able to pay the debts I owe to God."

*Harun* "I ask whether you owe anything to any man."

*Fuzail* "I thank God that I owe no man anything."

*Harun* "Here is a purse containing one thousand pieces of Gold, I inherited this sum from my mother and so the money is quite pure and lawful. Please oblige me by accepting it."

*Fuzail* "Alas all my exhortations have been thrown away. You mean to give the money to him who does not need it. You should give it to those who need it." With these words he shut the door and Harun and his Vizier went away.